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A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, by James Schouler, LL.D.,  
Ex-Professor in the Boston University Law School. Fifth Edition.  
Albany, N. Y.: Matthew Bender and Company, Incorporated, 1918;  
pp. xci, 886.

Those text books are few in number that can survive the wear and tear of a half century of competition, especially when the competition is not alone in form of text but is also one of method of presentation of the subject. That Schouler's Personal Property has survived to its fifth edition, in spite of many good case books on the subject is proof positive that it has some sterling merits, and, after a re-perusal of parts of it, one can well believe that its chief merit is one of form. The veteran author is that *rara avis* in the profession, a "lawyer with a style," and, though the later editions have been broken up into paragraphs with black face headings to facilitate its use as a text book, this interferes but little with the readability of the text.

A comparison of this last edition with that of 1873 shows only one significant change and that is one in spirit or attitude rather than in form. The first edition has a long "Introductory Chapter" beginning "God, the Creator of the Universe, has given to mankind, formed in His own image and after His likeness dominion over the world, etc." This introductory homily so characteristic of all orthodox learning—even in the law—of the early seventies had already in the Third Edition (1896), shrunk to a short introductory paragraph on "General Divisions of the Subject," with fewer lines than there were pages of the original introduction. The present edition contains also the chapter on "Personal Chattels Corporeal and Incorporeal Contrasted," which appears in the third edition, though not in the first. The reviewer has not had access to the second edition.

The author tells us that although he has had some assistance in the annotation and collection of cases for this edition, he has himself edited and revised the entire volume with care, an achievement which at his age may be compared with that of the distinguished legalist and historian—whose name may not even be mentioned now, as he was an unspeakable Teuton—who began an edition of the Codex Theodosianus at the age of eighty-two.

JOSEPH H. DRAKE.

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THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN JAPAN, by Kokichi Morimoto. (Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, Series XXXVI. No. 1.) Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1918; pp. vi, 150. This monograph is a study of the conditions of living in Japan, with particular reference to the cost of food, living and housing. It is based upon material collected by the author while he was lecturing at the Imperial University, Sapporo, Japan. In the absence of official data, the carefully compiled tables contained in this essay have peculiar interest.